

**Archie**  
**ACTION!**  
ARCHIECOMICS.COM



# SONIC UNIVERSE™

SPARK  
OF LIFE  
#**2**  
OF 4

SONIC UNIVERSE | 72



*Tracy Yardley!*  
*-Jim Amash*  
Hunzeker

Welcome to Sonic's comic book adventures – a world beyond what you know from the SEGA games! Where, as strange new threats emerge, NICOLE – the advanced artificial being – is confronted by a figure from her past...



**CHARACTER  
= SELECT =**



**PRINCESS  
SALLY ACORN**  
FREEDOM FIGHTER LEADER



**NICOLE THE  
HOLO-LYNX**  
ADVANCED A.I.



**MILES "TAILS"  
PROWER**  
YOUNG GENIUS



**DR. ELLIDY**  
RETIRED HERMIT

# SONIC UNIVERSE™

## PREVIOUSLY...

### FLOATING FRAGMENTS

Thanks to the sinister Dr. Eggman, Dark Gaia has begun to stir, leaving the planet cracked and broken! Continents have split apart, and dark creatures emerge at night. Now, the Freedom Fighters are on the hunt for the Chaos Emeralds and Gaia Temples needed to restore the world!



Responding to a desperate call for help, Sally, Tails, Nicole and Big arrived on Isolated Island, saving the mysterious Dr. Ellidy from a strange accident... but *was it* an accident?



Something  
dangerous may be  
**lurking in  
the dark...**

SONIC UNIVERSE (ISSN: 2157-3050), No. 72, March, 2015. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Jon Goldwater, Publisher/Co-CEO, Mike Pellerito, President, Victor Gorelick, Co-President. Single copies \$3.99. Subscription rate: \$47.99 for 12 issues. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. SEGA, Sonic the Hedgehog, and all related characters and indicia are either registered trademarks or trademarks of SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2015. SEGA CORPORATION and SONICTEAM, LTD./SEGA CORPORATION © 1991-2015. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under license from Sega of America, Inc., 350 Rhode Island Street, Ste 400, San Francisco, CA 94103 www.sega.com. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC UNIVERSE, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in USA.

# SPARK OF LIFE PART TWO



I'VE NEVER REALLY GIVEN A TOUR BEFORE, BUT I FIGURED I'D LEAVE THE BEST FOR LAST. DEAR GUESTS, I GIVE YOU MY LATEST DISCOVERY...



I CALL IT A  
**RED STAR RING!**


FOR, UH, FAIRLY OBVIOUS REASONS...

PLOT: IAN FLYNN / SCRIPT: ALEAH BAKER / PENCILS: TRACY YARDLEY / INKS: JIM AMASH / COLORS: MATT HERMS / LETTERS: JACK MORELLI  
COVER by: TRACY YARDLEY, JIM AMASH & BEN HUNZEKER / "MATCHMAKER" VARIANT COVER by: JENNIFER HERNANDEZ, JIM AMASH & MATT HERMS  
ASSISTANT EDITOR: VINCENT LOVALLO / EDITOR/EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF EDITORIAL: PAUL KAMINSKI / EDITOR-IN-CHIEF: VICTOR GORELICK  
PRESIDENT: MIKE PELLERITO / PUBLISHER: JON GOLDWATER / SPECIAL THANKS TO: TYLER HAM, ANTHONY GACCIONE  
and the CHARACTER BUSINESS and LICENSING DEPARTMENT of SEGA CORPORATION



I HAVE NO RECORDS OF SUCH A PHENOMENON.

IT'S PRETTY.



ITS PROPERTIES ARE NEARLY IDENTICAL TO THOSE OF A REGULAR RING... THOUGH THE POTENTIAL ENERGY OUTPUT MAY BE **MUCH** HIGHER.



SO COOL...AND IT CAME FROM THE LAKE OF RINGS HERE ON THE ISLAND?

YEP. THE LAKE USUALLY PRODUCES A MAGIC RING ON A DAILY BASIS.

OVER A WEEK AGO, IT WENT DORMANT, AND I THOUGHT IT HAD DRIED UP, SO TO SPEAK.

I DON'T YET KNOW WHAT CHANGED, BUT AFTER A FEW DAYS OF NO ACTIVITY, IT--

Erm... LOOKING FOR SOMETHING?



THERE'S NO FOOD IN THIS FRIDGE.

THAT'S A SERVER ROOM, BIG. IT KEEPS THE COMPUTERS COLD.

Oh. I DIDN'T KNOW COMPUTERS COULD GO BAD.

Uh... AS I WAS SAYING...

I HAVEN'T FIGURED OUT WHY THIS RING FORMED. IT MIGHT HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE RECENT DARK GAIA ENERGY\*, BUT I HAVEN'T EXAMINED ALL THE VARIABLES YET.



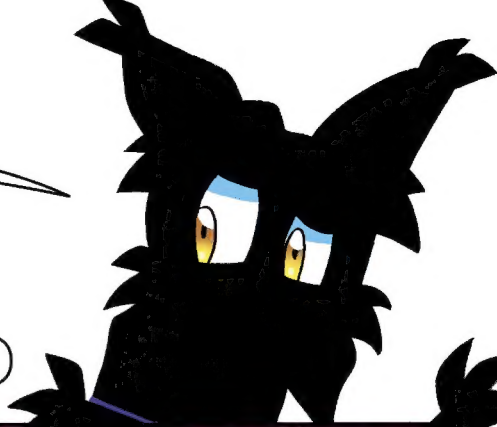
\* THE ENERGY AND MISTS SEEPING OUT FROM WITHIN THE CRACKED PLANET--Editor



STILL, THE POTENTIAL...! IF I COULD RE-CREATE THE CONDITIONS THAT MADE THE RING...OR EVEN SYNTHESIZE IT...

THAT COULD BE GREAT FOR NICOLE!

...Eh?



NICOLE IS ABLE TO PROJECT HER PHYSICAL FORM THANKS TO RINGS, RIGHT? BUT THE ENERGY IS USED UP PRETTY QUICKLY, SO WITH A MORE POWERFUL RING...



Oh, I SUPPOSE... IN THEORY...



Uh, MAYBE...



WOW! NOT ONLY DID YOU CREATE NICOLE, YOU DEVELOPED ALL THESE NEAT USES FOR RINGS!

IT'S KIND OF A SHAME YOU COULDN'T KEEP WORKING FOR SALLY'S DAD.

YES, WELL, NO POINT IN DWELLING ON WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN.

ANYWAY--





SINCE THE RED STAR RING APPEARED, I'VE HAD MY LITTLE ROBOT BUDDIES--Erm... THE REPROGRAMMED BADNIKS-- MONITORING THE LAKE OF RINGS. IT SEEMS TO HAVE GONE DORMANT AGAIN.

SO IT MIGHT BE MAKING ANOTHER RING!

RIGHT.



UNFORTUNATELY, YESTERDAY I LOST THE VIDEO FEED FROM THE LAKE.



MAYBE THE BADNIK STATIONED AT THE LAKE WAS DAMAGED OR DESTROYED BY THE DARK GAIA CREATURES.

THING IS, IT'S STILL SHOWING AS ACTIVE IN MY SYSTEMS. I TRIED TO TAKE A CLOSER LOOK VIA THE DIGITIZER, AND, WELL... YOU KNOW HOW *THAT* WENT.\*

OTHER FEEDS HAVE SINCE GONE OFFLINE, TOO.


\*SEE LAST ISSUE



IT COULD BE A HARDWARE ISSUE. I'D BE HAPPY TO TAKE A LOOK AT IT!



ACTUALLY, DOCTOR, I WANTED TO DISCUSS THIS EARLIER...



WHEN YOU DIGITIZED YOURSELF, YOU ENDED UP **TRAPPED** IN THE DIGITAL WORLD. FURTHERMORE, YOU CAME UNDER ATTACK. EVEN IF YOUR PHYSICAL BODY REMAINED HERE, **MENTALLY**, YOU WERE AT RISK.

I BELIEVE THIS WAS ALL A DELIBERATE ACT OF AGGRESSION.

**SOME-THING** IS TRYING TO TAKE OVER YOUR SYSTEMS.




☹SIGH☹

I'D LIKE TO ARGUE THAT MY SYSTEMS ARE IRONCLAD, BUT I SUPPOSE YOU WOULD KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE.

AND I GUESS IT FITS...



HEY, NO WORRIES! NICOLE AND I CAN HANDLE THIS!



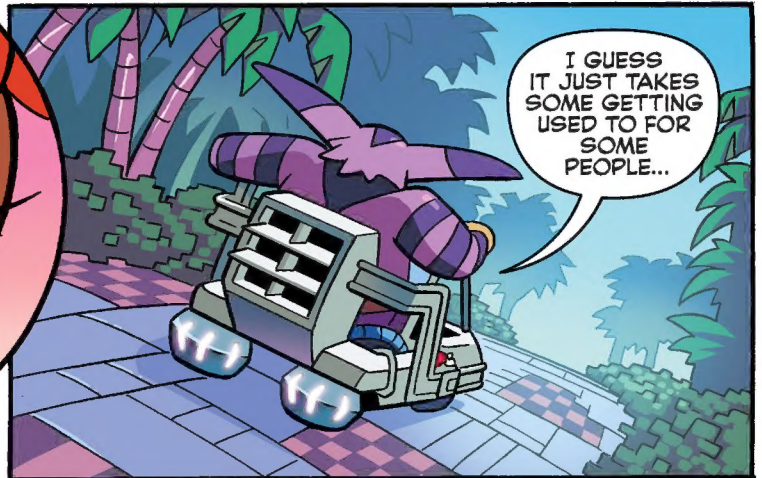
AND BIG AND I WILL GO INVESTIGATE THE LAKE OF RINGS IN THE MEANTIME.

I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU HAVE A VEHICLE...?



Heh...I'M NOT *THAT* MUCH OF A RECLUSE.







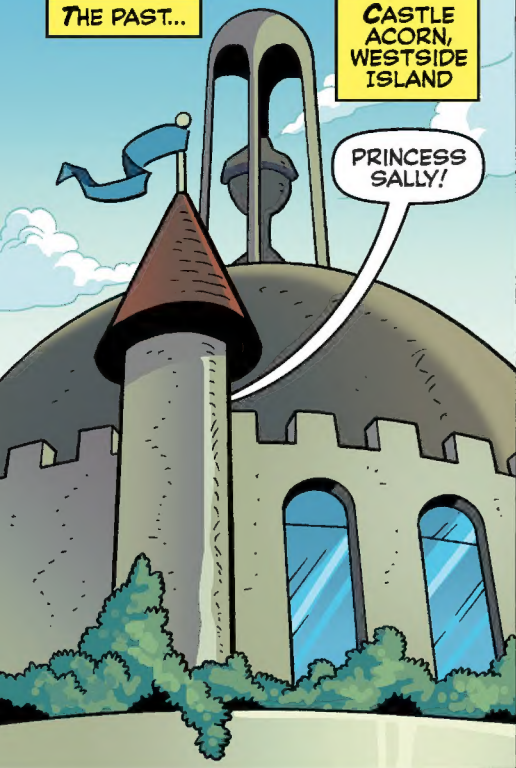
THE PAST...

CASTLE ACORN, WESTSIDE ISLAND

PRINCESS SALLY!

MY DEAR, YOU'RE LATE FOR YOUR LESSONS.

Oh, SORRY, ROSIE! BUT I DON'T NEED LESSONS ANYMORE.



Oh?

NOW THAT I HAVE NICOLE, I CAN JUST ASK HER WHATEVER!

NICOLE, WHAT'S A BILLION PLUS A BILLION?

TWO BILLION.

...Oh, RIGHT. OKAY, THEN WHAT'S, Um, FIVE THOUSAND, TWO--



ALL RIGHT THEN, PRINCESS. LET'S SAY YOU'RE NOW QUEEN. ENEMY FORCES ARE ATTACKING WESTSIDE ISLAND, FOUR HUNDRED IN THE SOUTHERN PORTS AND FOUR HUNDRED IN THE EASTERN PORTS. YOU HAVE FIVE HUNDRED SOLDIERS AT YOUR COMMAND.

WHAT DO YOU DO?

WELL, NICOLE? HOW DO I SPLIT OUR FORCES?

DATA NOT SUFFICIENT.

C'MON...

DIVISION OF FORCES NOT RECOMMENDED.

SUGGESTED TACTIC: FOCUS ALL FORCES ON ONE PORT AND ABANDON THE OTHER. THIS GUARANTEES ONE PORT SUCCESSFULLY RECLAIMED.



NO! I WANT TO SAVE EVERYONE!

FORCES ARE INSUFFICIENT.

THEN GIVE ME A DIFFERENT SOLUTION.

INSUFFICIENT DATA.

WELL, **QUEEN SALLY?**

WHAT IS YOUR DECISION?

I-I...



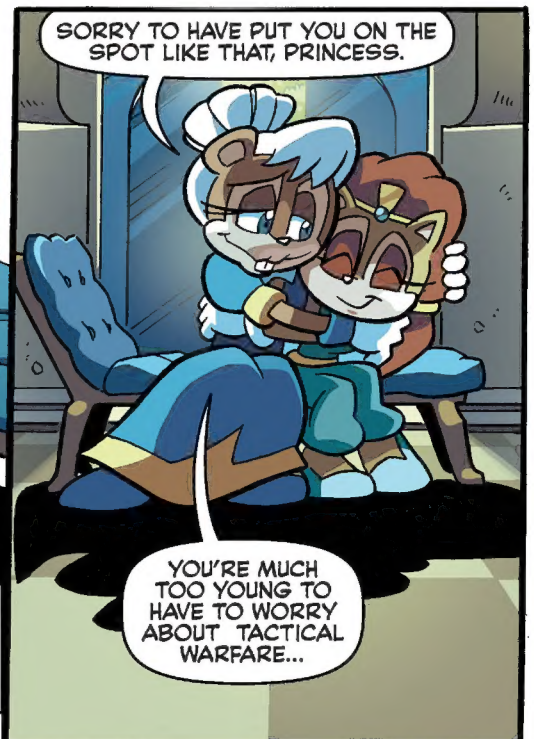
I DON'T KNOW. I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO.

I'M SORRY, ROSIE. YOU'RE RIGHT. I WANT TO BE A QUEEN WHO'S THERE FOR HER PEOPLE... SO... I'LL HAVE TO BE MORE SELF-RELIANT.

...THOUGH MAYBE NICOLE CAN BE MY ROYAL ADVISOR?



I THINK THAT POSITION IS TYPICALLY RESERVED FOR LIVING BEINGS.



SORRY TO HAVE PUT YOU ON THE SPOT LIKE THAT, PRINCESS.

YOU'RE MUCH TOO YOUNG TO HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT TACTICAL WARFARE...

DR. ELLIDY'S LAB...

READY, NICOLE?

LOCKING DOWN MY HANDHELD... MOVING TO THE MAIN SYSTEM NOW. IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE STILL IN CONTACT WITH THE DIGITAL WORLD.

DR. ELLIDY'S MAIN SYSTEM...

THE FIREWALL **SEEMS** INTACT, THOUGH THAT DOESN'T NECESSARILY MEAN SOMETHING HASN'T BYPASSED IT UNDETECTED.

RETIRED OR NOT, I DIDN'T THINK MY SKILLS WERE **THAT** RUSTY...

THE BADNIKS ALL APPEAR ONLINE BUT NOT... NECESSARILY RESPONSIVE... Hmm... I BELIEVE THIS QUALIFIES AS "FRUSTRATING."

...WHAT COULD POSSIBLY...?





NICOLE?

YES, I'M  
HERE.

IS IT  
LOOKING  
LIKE A VIRUS,  
OR...?

I HATE TO  
ADMIT IT, BUT...  
I'M NOT SURE.  
I THINK SOME-  
THING *IS* HERE.  
SOMETHING  
ELUSIVE.

TAILS. I  
SUGGEST WE  
PARTITION THE  
SYSTEM IN ORDER  
TO LIMIT ITS  
MOVEMENT.

I'M GOING  
TO SEARCH FOR  
IT DIRECTLY.

ALL  
RIGHT...



...JUST BE CAREFUL.



THE WAY YOU INTERACT... NICOLE'S GROWTH IS TRULY... IMPRESSIVE.

NO KIDDING! I DON'T KNOW IF EVEN I COULD PULL OFF PROGRAMMING LIKE THAT! LIKE, I BUILT THIS ROBOT, T-PUP, AND SOMETIMES... WELL THERE WAS THIS ONE INCIDENT, WHILE WE WERE PLAYING FETCH...

UH... ACTUALLY, IT'S SORT OF EMBARRASSING...



Ah, WELL... TRUTH BE TOLD... NICOLE'S CREATION WAS THE RESULT OF...UNIQUE CIRCUMSTANCES... I DON'T THINK...



YOU DON'T HAVE TO TALK ABOUT ME AS IF I'M NOT HERE.

O-O OF COURSE NOT! MY APOLOGIES.



NICOLE, TELL ME... DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN YOU WERE FIRST ACTIVATED?



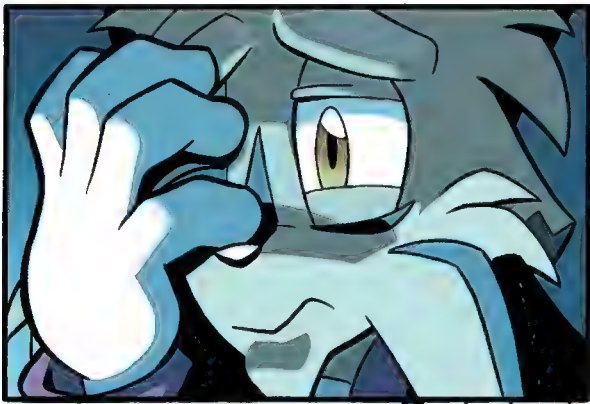
TECHNICALLY, I REMEMBER EVERYTHING. BUT HOW I REMEMBER IT IS...DIFFERENT. I DON'T...

I CAN'T VIEW THOSE EVENTS AS I SEE THINGS NOW.

THE PAST...

MOBOTROPOLIS,  
WESTSIDE ISLAND

COME ON...  
PLEASE...  
ANYTHING...



UNIT ONLINE.  
GREETINGS,  
DR. ELLIDY.



WHO...DID  
IT WORK?  
...ARE  
YOU...

THIS UNIT  
HAS NO SET  
DESIGNATION.



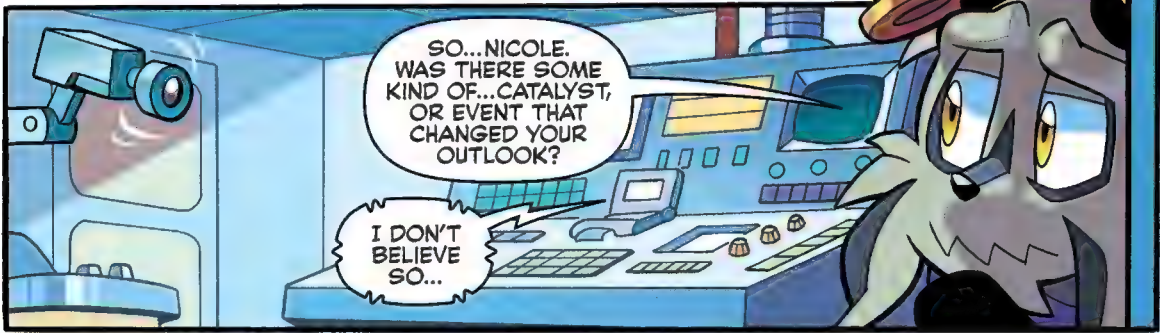
NO...OF  
COURSE  
NOT...



UH, HELLO?  
DR. ELLIDY? ARE  
YOU FEELING  
WORN OUT FROM  
EARLIER?

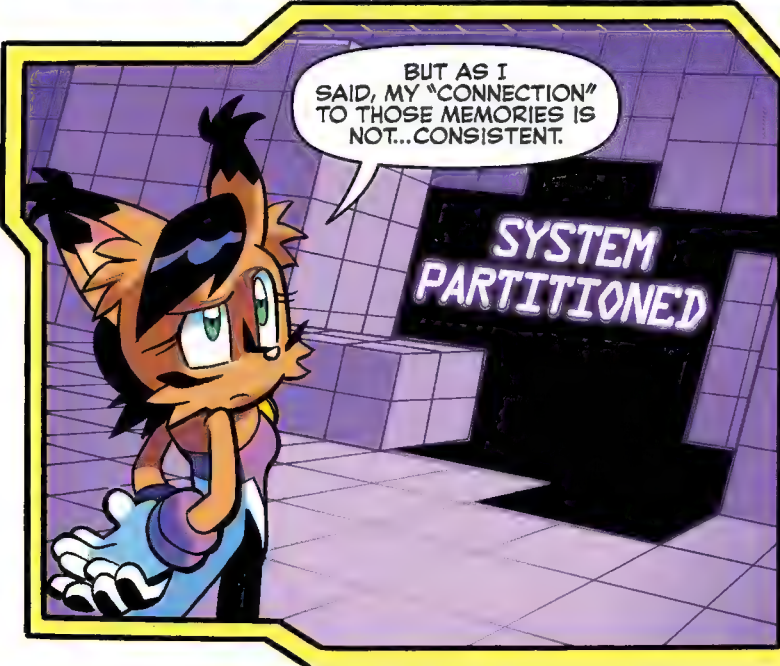


AH, YES,  
A LITTLE.  
SORRY,  
LET'S KEEP  
WORKING.



SO...NICOLE.  
WAS THERE SOME  
KIND OF...CATALYST,  
OR EVENT THAT  
CHANGED YOUR  
OUTLOOK?

I DON'T  
BELIEVE  
SO...

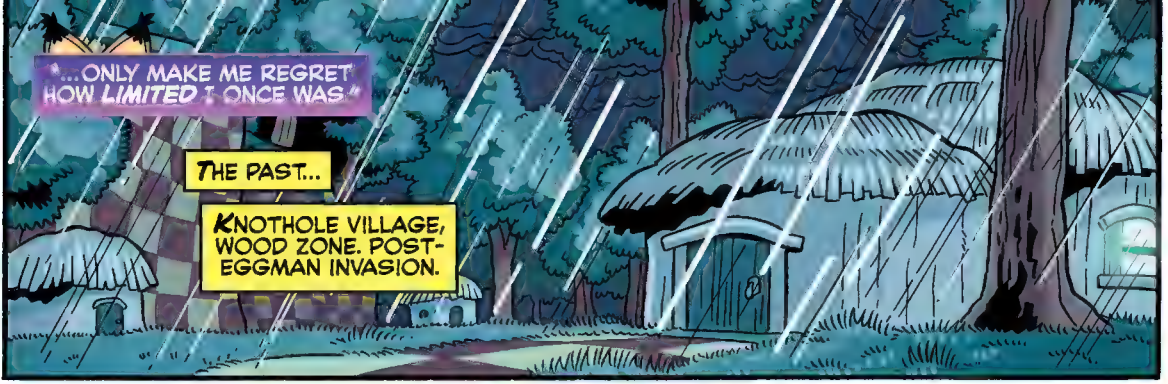


BUT AS I  
SAID, MY "CONNECTION"  
TO THOSE MEMORIES IS  
NOT...CONSISTENT.



MY ENTIRE PERSPECTIVE  
EXISTED IN A DIFFERENT  
CONTEXT.

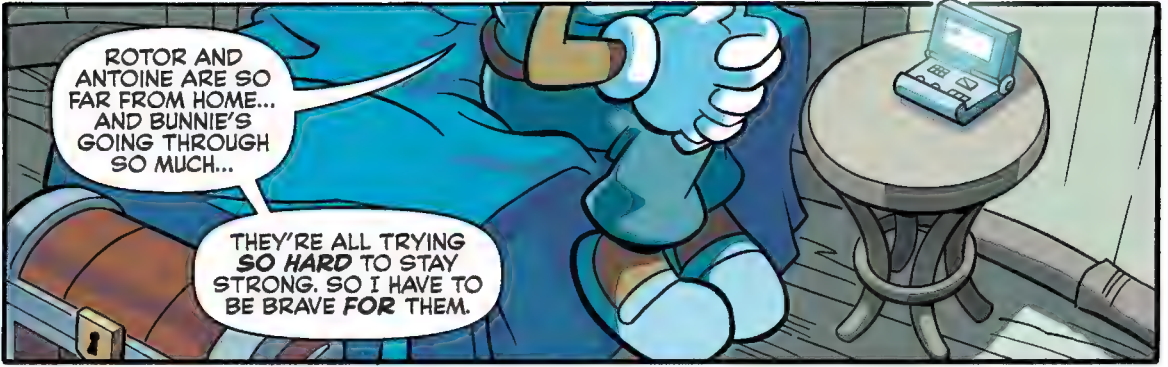
MANY OF THE  
EVENTS THAT I  
CAN RECOGNIZE...



\*...ONLY MAKE ME REGRET HOW LIMITED I ONCE WAS\*

THE PAST...

KNOTHOLE VILLAGE,  
WOOD ZONE. POST-  
EGGMAN INVASION.



ROTOR AND ANTOINE ARE SO FAR FROM HOME... AND BUNNIE'S GOING THROUGH SO MUCH...

THEY'RE ALL TRYING SO HARD TO STAY STRONG. SO I HAVE TO BE BRAVE FOR THEM.



A PRINCESS SHOULD KEEP EVERYONE ELSE INSPIRED, RIGHT? SO I CAN'T... I CAN'T LET THEM SEE ME BE WEAK... EVEN THOUGH...



...EVEN THOUGH...

I MISS MY DADDY... SO MUCH...



I'M S-SORRY, NICOLE... I GUESS YOU CAN'T REALLY C-CARE, BUT STILL...

THANKS... FOR BEING THERE.



**THE PRESENT.**

THERE'S THE LAKE OF RINGS!

FROGGY WOULD LOVE THIS PLACE!

WELL, MAYBE YOU COULD BRING HIM HERE SOME DAY.

YEAH! HE GETS JEALOUS WHEN I LEAVE HIM BEHIND ON TRIPS.

I... DIDN'T IMAGINE HE WAS THAT TYPE.

WELL, HERE'S DR. ELLIDY'S BADN...uh, ROBOT. IT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE RESPONDING TO ANYTHING.

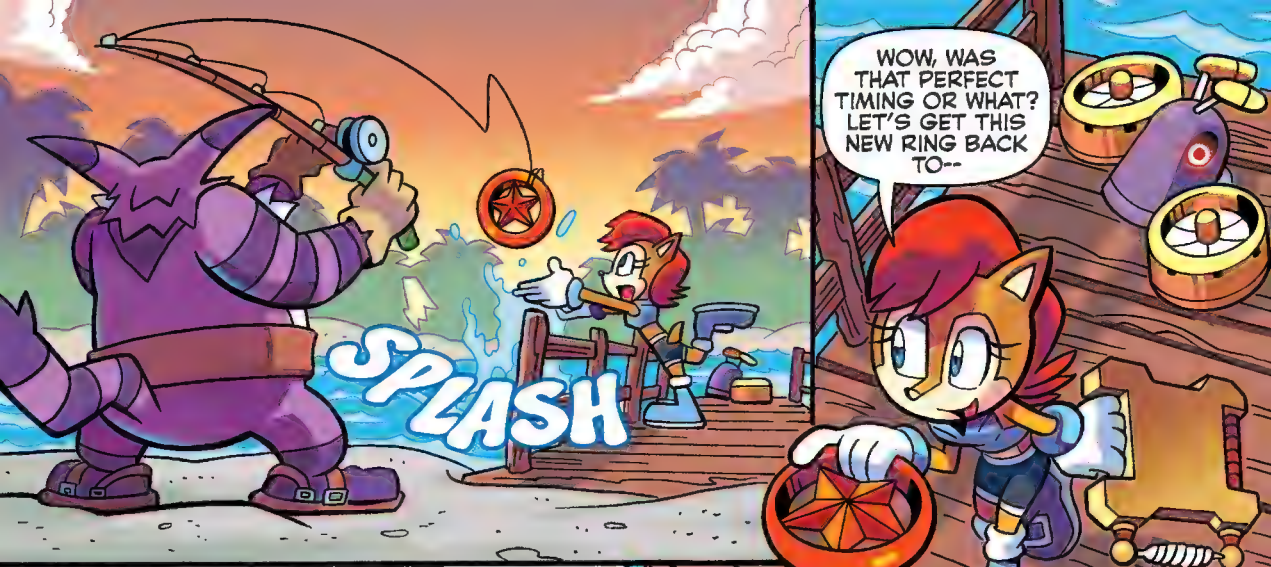
HEY, PRINCESS SALLY? CAN I DRIVE ON THE WAY BACK?

Huh? Oh, SURE, WHY NOT?

Hmmm... THERE'S SOME KIND OF BASELINE READING HERE...AND THERE SEEMS TO BE AN ENERGY SPIKE...

HEY! LOOK!

IT'S ANOTHER RED STAR RING!





YOU OKAY?

I'M FINE, BUT THIS IS GETTING BEYOND CREEPY!



WHATEVER'S INFECTED DR. ELLIDY'S SYSTEMS IS DEFINITELY AGGRESSIVE. I WONDER IF SOMEONE IS TRYING TO GET TO THESE RED STAR RINGS. ALSO...



...THERE'S STILL AN ENERGY READING. IS IT THE LAKE ITSELF?

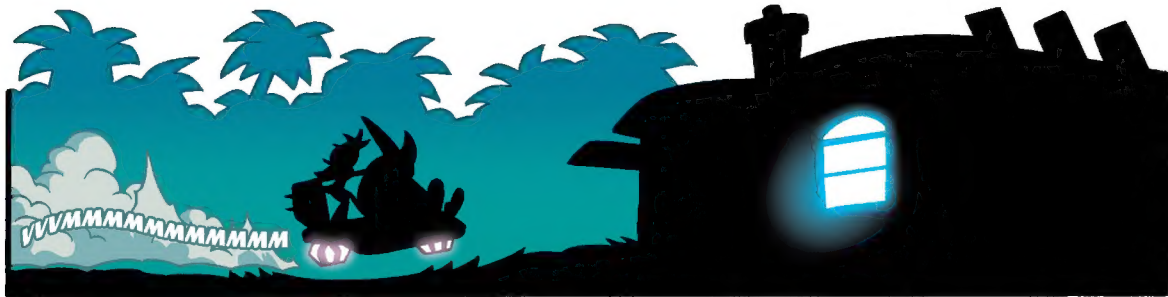


PRINCESS SALLY...IT'S GETTING DARK. THOSE DARK GAIA MONSTERS COME OUT AT NIGHT...

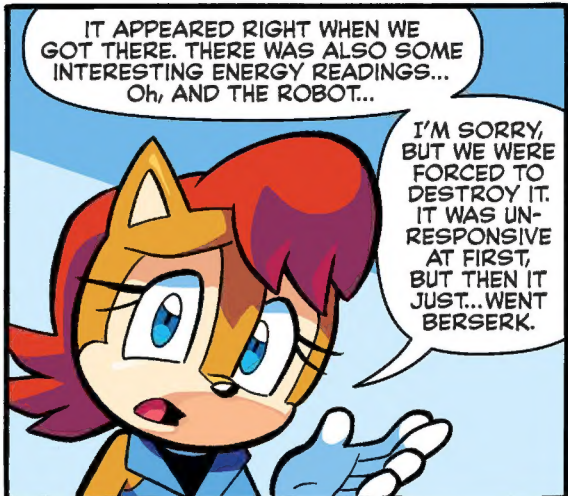
RIGHT. WE'D BETTER GET BACK.



MY TURN TO DRIVE!



YOU'RE BACK!  
HOW--Oh! A  
SECOND RED  
STAR RING!



IT APPEARED RIGHT WHEN WE  
GOT THERE. THERE WAS ALSO SOME  
INTERESTING ENERGY READINGS...  
Oh, AND THE ROBOT...

I'M SORRY,  
BUT WE WERE  
FORCED TO  
DESTROY IT.  
IT WAS UN-  
RESPONSIVE  
AT FIRST,  
BUT THEN IT  
JUST...WENT  
BERSERK.



THAT'S NOT EXACTLY REASSURING.  
I DUNNO IF WE'RE EVEN ALL THAT  
MUCH CLOSER TO PINPOINTING  
THE PROBLEM HERE AND...

YAAAWWNE



THIS HAS BEEN  
A LONG DAY.

YOU SHOULD  
GET SOME  
REST.

BUT THE  
ROBOTS...

I'LL KEEP  
TABS ON THINGS.  
IF ANYTHING GOES  
DISASTROUSLY  
WRONG, TRUST ME,  
I'LL LET YOU  
KNOW.




ALL RIGHT,  
NICOLE. I'M JUST  
GONNA GIVE ROTOR  
A QUICK CALL TO  
CHECK IN ON THE  
SKY PATROL.

THIS WAY, GENTLEMEN. THEY  
MAY NOT LOOK LIKE MUCH, BUT  
THE CHAIRS ARE QUITE COMFY.  
SORRY...NEVER NEEDED A  
GUEST ROOM HERE.




ALL THE TECH  
IN THERE MUST BE  
MESSING WITH THE  
RECEPTION... SALLY  
TO SKY PATROL...  
HELLO?




HEY, ROTOR! YEAH, JUST  
CALLING TO LET YOU KNOW...  
Uh-huh...

YEAH,  
DR. ELLIDY'S  
OKAY. NICOLE  
REACHED HIM IN  
TIME AND... YEAH.  
HONESTLY, HE  
SEEMS A LITTLE  
UNEASY AROUND  
HER.



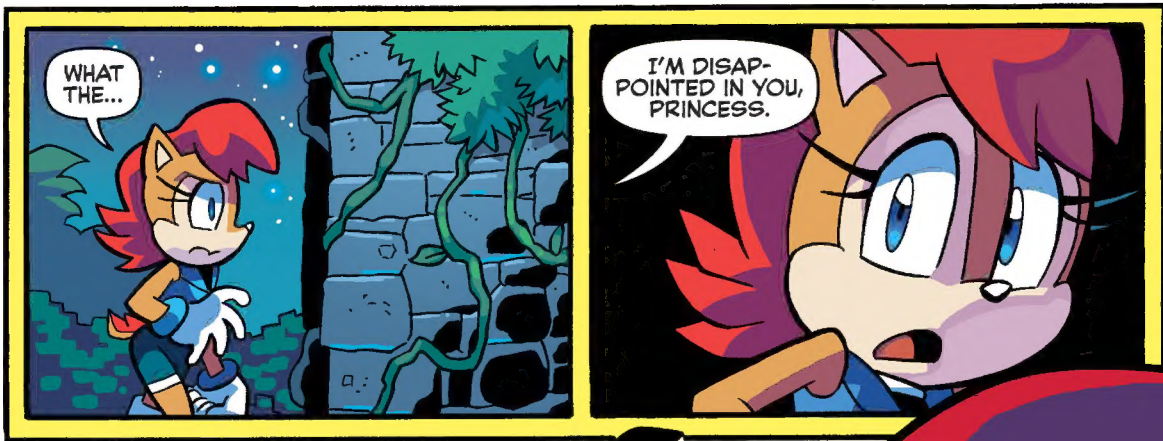
YEAH, I KNOW IT'S BEEN  
A LONG TIME. LISTEN,  
THERE'S SOME KIND OF  
PROBLEM HERE... NOT  
SURE... MIGHT BE A  
VIRUS, OR MAYBE  
EVEN A HACKER...



YEAH, I KNOW.  
TV ALWAYS GETS  
"HACKING" WRONG.  
DON'T... Oh,  
THAT MIGHT BE THE  
OTHERS CALLING?  
ALL RIGHT. 'NIGHT,  
ROTOR. SEE YOU  
TOMORROW.



Huh.



WHAT THE...

I'M DISAPPOINTED IN YOU, PRINCESS.



I EXPECTED YOUR FATHER TO TEACH YOU BETTER THAN TO SNOOP AROUND!

LOOKS LIKE SALLY STUMBLED ACROSS SOMETHING SHE WASN'T MEANT TO SEE!

WILL THE **FREEDOM FIGHTERS** SURVIVE THE NIGHT?!

FIND OUT IN: **SPARK OF LIFE** PART THREE

AND DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT SONIC THE HEDGEHOG EACH MONTH, THE SONIC SUPER SPECIALS & SONIC SUPER DIGESTS EACH QUARTER, & THE GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY ANY TIME!! PLUS THE ALL-NEW SERIES SONIC BOOM--ON SALE NOW!!

NEXT ISSUE: SONIC UNIVERSE 73



ASSESSING THREATS...

RECOMMENDED ACTION...

Tracy Yardley!

...TERMINATION

# SPARK OF LIFE

PART 3 OF 4